



ROCKET NO.: 204934US0X

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

CHIEKO OHSUMI, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: COLLINS, C.

SERIAL NO: 09/810,186

:

FILED: MARCH 19, 2001

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1638

FOR: A METHOD FOR PROVIDING A
PROPERTY OF STRESS-
RESISTANCE

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Amend C
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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated July 16, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-7 and add the following new claims:

8. (New) A method of increasing drought resistance of a plant, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into the plant, wherein the polynucleotide expresses the protein in an amount sufficient to increase the drought resistance of the plant, wherein the drought resistance of the plant is higher compared to the plant prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

9. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.